

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL/SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Education at the Chemistry Institute in
Dnepropetrovsk/Coke Oven Factories in the Ukraine

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1. There were about 35 to 40 students [redacted] (1929-1933) in the Chemistry Institute specializing in the study of coke oven factories. Six professors provided all the instruction. The quality of instruction was high as a result of the almost fanatic interest of the students and professors in coke ovens, and of the close relationship of the professors with the students.
2. The first year in the Institute for all students was for general study. During the second or third year, the students began to specialize in one of the major fields offered; mineralogy, coke ovens, naptha industry, mines and general laboratory. The general laboratory students were almost all female and about 10% of the remainder of the students in the Chemistry Institute were female.
3. The men were required to attend military camp somewhere between Leningrad and Moscow for about three weeks every summer. None of the students knew the location of the camp because the windows of the trains in which they were transported were covered over. After graduation, the men were commissioned as officers in the reserve army.
4. Beginning with the third year, all students were sent to factories for practical training for periods of from 45 to 90 days per year. A factory would have students from all over the USSR. Students from the Chemistry Institute in Dnepropetrovsk were sent to many factories.
[redacted]
5. At the time of graduation, each student in the coke oven factory department was required to prepare a design for a coke oven factory, based on his practical and theoretical training. Considerable detail was required in the plans as well as an explanation for each of the required sections of the design. A group of five or six professors reviewed the plans and subjected the student to a severe oral examination. If not found qualified the student was required to take an extra year of instruction. After graduation, students spent three years at various assignments before they obtained diplomas.

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-2-

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6. All students studied Communist theory as one of the curricula subjects. Realizing that such knowledge was a prerequisite to graduation, almost all of the students (approximately 50) memorized the doctrine but few were convinced by it. However, a chuckle or wink at appropriate times from other students while studying demonstrated to me that the Communist ideology was not taken seriously. 50X1-HUM
7. All students were required to pass a final examination in Communist theory. The students who had higher grades in these subjects received better assignments. Generally, these students also had higher marks in the other academic subjects as well so excellence in political indoctrination was the only factor in making out assignments. 50X1-HUM
8. Professor (fnu) Agroskin was the most important instructor at the Chemical Institute in Dnepropetrovsk. 50X1-HUM
9. Very few of the personnel working in the Dnepropetrovsk Coke Oven Factory (DCOF) were allowed to know what the products were or what the rate of production was. It was considered foolhardy to show interest in such things. There were 20 or 21 coke oven batteries at DCOF in 1934. standard figures were used from the text books. 50X1-HUM
10. If the DCOF had more gas than it needed for its work, the surplus was stored in gas tanks and used by the plants imeni Lenin, Petrovskiy, an DZMO. The remainder of the gas was usually burned.
11. In 1931, two coke oven batteries were in operation in Dneprodzerzhinsk and two more batteries of the Becker system were under construction. In 1932 four coke oven batteries of the Becker system were in operation in the town of Alchevsk, Donbas, in the Ukraine. Not far from Alchevsk, in the town of Makeyevka, there were also four coke oven batteries of the Becker system. 50X1-HUM
12. Factory directors were changed frequently a Mr. (fnu) Schroeder was in charge of the bridge factory which was a part of the "Petrovskiy" factory in 1940. 50X1-HUM
13. All these plants were destroyed during World War II. The blast furnaces were blown up. 50X1-HUM

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